

Amendment(s) to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following replacement

Abstract:

A compact backlight system has a light-emitting panel (1) with a front wall (2), a rear wall (3) situated opposite thereto, and furthermore, between the front and the rear wall (2, 3), a first edge surface (4) and, opposite thereto, a second edge surface (5). A first light source (6) is associated with the first edge surface (4) which is light-transmitting. According to the invention, the light-emitting panel (1) widens over a widening section (100) from the first edge surface (4) in a direction towards the second edge surface (5), and the rear wall (3) is provided over the widening section (100) with a multiplicity of steps (13, 13', ...) of which each having a surface (17) facing the front wall (2) which is substantially parallel to the front wall (2). Preferably, the ratio of the surface area S_1 of the first edge surface (4) and the surface area S_2 of the second edge surface (5) ranges from $1.5 < S_2/S_1 < 3$.

Fig. 1